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The Urban District of Penrith



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the year 1947

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PENRITH :

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
PENRITH,
27th July, 1948.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PENRITH.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. JOHNSON, AND GENTLEMEN:

It is with pleasure that I submit my Twelfth Annual Report on the health of the town.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in Circular 170/47 of the Ministry of Health dated 31st December, 1947, and on the lines indicated in Circular 13/47 dated 13th March, 1947.

The population of the Urban Area is estimated by the Registrar-General to be 9,730, which is an increase of 77 on 1946.

The vital statistics are very similar to those for 1946, the birth rate at 20.14 remains high, and the low infantile mortality rate of 35.71 is pretty satisfactory.

The year 1947 is outstanding in epidemiological history on account of the record epidemic of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) which swept England, Scotland and Wales and when 4 cases only were notified in the Penrith Urban Area. The County of Westmorland with 28 cases had a rate of 40+ calculated per 100,000 of population and shared with Radnorshire, the Isle of Wight and Holland (Lincs) the highest relative incidence in England and Wales. It is my opinion that infection occurred in Penrith from a Westmorland source, but it is quite impossible to prove this surmise, owing to the widespread distribution of the disease.

SMALLPOX: During 1947 there were 79 cases of smallpox with confirmed diagnosis in England but fortunately this district escaped infection, and in this connection the public should note that failure to have their children vaccinated or re-vaccinated may result in a devastating epidemic in the future.

This is, in my opinion, particularly important in view of the repeal of the Vaccination Acts under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

MEASLES: Was epidemic in the closing months of the year with 237 notifications and no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH: Was slightly epidemic in February chiefly in pre-school age children, and became endemic during March-June. There were no deaths from this disease.

WATER: As in previous years it can be stated that the water supply is extremely pure, in fact, a recent analysis which is reproduced in this Report gives a result almost analogous to distilled water; and it is remarkably satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

HOUSING: This problem continues to give rise to much anxiety, but the Scaws Farm Estate housing scheme is making more satisfactory progress, the lay-out and the architecture of this estate are extremely creditable to all those concerned, and should prove of great benefit from the health viewpoint.

Overcrowding and bad housing conditions however remain as a menace to health.

In conclusion my thanks are due to the members of the Sanitary and Housing Committees and to my colleagues on the staff.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
F. W. GAVIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA.

Area of the District (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,586
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,840
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£66,085
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£265 13s. 9d.
Registrar-General's estimate of the population	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,730
Live Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	96	80	176
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	12	8	20
							196
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.14
Birth rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.5
Still Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	2	.. 2	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	.. —	—
Rate per 1,000 (total births, live and still)					..		20.00
Deaths					Male	Female	Total
					74	81	155
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.93
Death Rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.0
Deaths from Puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year ;							
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	35.71
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	34.09
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	50.00
Infantile death rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	41.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years of age)					..	..	1

VITAL STATISTICS

I am indebted to Dr. Kenneth Fraser, County Medical Officer of Health for the following statistics, viz, :—

	Birth rate	Crude Death rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
Administrative County of Cumberland	22.0	13.8	42
Urban Districts of Cum- berland (including Boroughs of Working- and Whitehaven ..	22.9	14.3	46
Rural Districts of Cumberland	21.4	13.4	39
Urban District of Penrith ..	20.14	15.93	35.71
England and Wales ..	20.5	12.0	41

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1947.

Seven deaths of infants under one year of age occurred in 1947 and this is precisely the same number of deaths which were recorded in the year 1946.

- (1) Male died 1 day old from extreme Prematurity.
- (2) Female died 1 week old from Congenital Heart Disease.
- (3) Male died 1 day old from Toxæmia and Pulmonary Oedema.
- (4) Male died 10 hours old from Prematurity.
- (5) Female died 7 months old from Gastro-Enteritis.
- (6) Female died 21 hours old from Prematurity.
- (7) Female died 2 hours old from Spina Bifida.

All the above cases died in Maternity homes with the exception of case number (5) which died at her own home.

Infantile mortality rate for 1947 .. 35.71

CUMBERLAND PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY

Cumberland Infirmary,
Carlisle.

PENRITH U.D.C.

EXAMINATION OF WATER, 12.7.48.

Time and place of sample taken—Council's Depot, Old London Road, Penrith,
3 p.m., 6.7.48

Bacteriology.

Agar plate count..	..	0.1 ml.	1 ml.	10 ml.
		Colonies	Colonies	Colonies
at 22°C.	..	Nil	Nil.	4
at 37° C.	..	Nil.	1	9
Probable number of coliaerogenes present in 100 ml.	..			Nil.

Chemistry.

Appearance in a 2 ft. tube—Clear and colourless.
pH. 7.1.

						Parts per 100,000
Free and Saline ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	0.004
Albuminoid ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	0.006
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 15 mins. at 27°C.	..					0.009
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C...						0.002
Total solids	..	..	..	..	..	3.7
Suspended matter	..	..	..	..	..	0.0
Hardness—total	..	..	..	..	..	2.3
permanent		..	..	..	..	2.2
temporary	..	..	..	..	..	0.1
Chlorine present as chlorides	..	..	..	..	..	0.60
Heavy metals	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Nitrates						
Nitrites						

OPINION: A pure and wholesome water.

(Signed) LESLIE H. EASSON,

Chemist.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS:
CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Beasts	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1061	688	2517	5644	132
Number inspected	1061	688	2517	5644	132
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	66	83	125	186	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	834	551	30	1137	26
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- eases other than T.B. ..	84.82 %	92.15 %	6.15 %	23.44 %	34.09 %
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	21	50	8	Nil	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	147	172	1	Nil	3
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B.	15.83 %	32.26 %	0.35 %	Nil	4.54 %

The following additional items were condemned by the Veterinary Officer during the year:—

1 piece of steak	— bone taint
1 rump steak of beef	— bone taint
1 part hindquarter of beef	— decomposition
1 part hindquarter of beef	— bone taint
1 part hindquarter of beef	— abscess.
5 parts hindquarter of beef	— bone taint.
3 legs mutton	— decomposition.
1 mutton carcase	— icterus.
1 trunk of mutton	— abscess.
2 bags mutton haunches	— decomposition.
52lb. liver sausage	— rancid.
1 head and back of pork	— abscess.
129 12oz. tins C.C. Beef	— decomposition
18 6lb. tins C.C.Beef	— decomposition.
1 case ox tails (50lb.)	— do.
1 6lb. tin C.C. Mutton	— do.

**CARCASES EXAMINED BY THE VETERINARY SURGEON
PENRITH MUNICIPAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE.**

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Calves
January	32	59	863	8	137
February	57	59	454	5	109
March	44	53	269	23	313
April	89	38	208	3	63
May	51	31	204	6	60
June	60	14	177	9	49
July	38	51	231	14	67
August	64	93	250	6	64
September	204	76	523	13	75
October	149	87	661	14	607
November	144	69	922	15	765
December	129	58	882	16	208
Yearly Total	1061	688	5644	132	2517

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Smallpox:

All those members of the staff whose duties might bring them into contact with smallpox were vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year. In this connection contacts of this disease have been examined during the year, and each case was found to be free from any symptoms and to show evidence of recent successful vaccination or re-vaccination. These contacts had come from the Middle or Far East by ships or by air.

Scarlet Fever:

The incidence of this disease remained at a low ebb during the year, and the six cases notified were all mild.

Five cases were removed to the Fairhill Isolation Hospital and the usual disinfection was carried out at their homes.

Diphtheria:

As in 1946 only one case of this disease occurred in 1947, a girl aged 18 years who had apparently been infected in the Cockermouth Rural Area prior to coming into this district. She had not been immunised against this disease, and was admitted to the Isolation Hospital where she recovered.

A total of 38 school children and 230 pre-school age children completed a course of two injections with A.P.T. (Burroughs and Wellcome) during the year and at 31st December, 1947, it was estimated that 786 pre-school age children and 1384 school children had completed a course of immunising injections against diphtheria.

During the year 125 school children received a 'booster' or re-inforcing injection against diphtheria.

The diphtheria notifications during the last 14 years are as follows:—

Years	Diphtheria Cases	Deaths
1934	23	Nil
1935	32	2
1936	23	1
1937	19	Nil
1938	19	Nil
1939	10	Nil
1940	4	Nil
1941	1	Nil
1942	1	Nil
1943	2	1
1944	12	2
1945	2	Nil
1946	1	Nil
1947	1	Nil

Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia:—

Seven cases were notified with one death—a female aged 86 years, which is exactly what occurred in the previous year, 1946.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis:—

During the year this disease became epidemic in England and Wales and four cases were notified in the Penrith Urban Area, the details are as follows:—

(1) The first case notified on 19th May, 1947, was a male aged 6 years attending the Council Infants' School. He was an only child domiciled in Grade IV property and the source of infection may have been a child domiciled in the North Westmorland Rural Area and who also attended the same school. These children belonged to different classrooms, however, and it is impossible to say where infection had occurred.

(2) The second case was a female aged 15 years—onset of illness on 31st May, 1947, and notified on 3rd June, 1947. She was employed as a shopgirl at a Penrith Draper's Shop and lived at a stock-rearing farm within the Penrith Urban Area. No factor common to these two cases could be found and the source of infection is entirely unknown. This girl made a good recovery.

(3) The third case, a female aged 38 years, not a Penrith resident, was notified on 19th July, 1947, with paralysis of the left hand. She had apparently been infected in the Darlington district and failed to consult a doctor until a fortnight after the initial symptoms.

This was a mild case and after admission to Penrith Isolation Hospital she was discharged to her home at Carlisle.

(4) The fourth case, a male aged 23 years, was notified on 22nd September, 1947. The onset was on 15th September, 1947, and he was admitted to Penrith Isolation Hospital. He was probably infected at Carlisle as he only left that town for Penrith on 13th September, 1947.

Measures taken to combat infection:—As the Virus which is responsible for Poliomyelitis has been more frequently isolated from children than from adults, all school children who were home contacts were excluded from school for three weeks and very careful disinfection was carried out; and in this connection Penrith Council Infants' and Council Girls' Schools were both disinfected in June, 1947, and the former school was closed for two weeks.

All these cases were admitted to Isolation Hospital prior to further post-infective-orthopædic treatment at Ethel Hedley Hospital, or out-patient treatment at the Cumberland Infirmary or at an Orthopædic Clinic under the Cumberland County Council's scheme for such treatment. In co-operation with Dr. Kenneth Fraser, the County Medical Officer, arrangements were made for the Ministry of Information's Infantile Paralysis Film to be shown at the Penrith Town Hall on 8th September, 1947.

Further preventive measures were: careful disinfection of the patient's excreta, nasal discharges, etc., and contacts were advised to gargle with mild antiseptics and also to wash their hands carefully before preparing or consuming food.

Conclusions:—Fortunately there were no deaths from this cause in the town and it is to be noted that 3 of the four cases were adults and the fourth case a schoolboy. It has long been recognised that the term 'Infantile' Paralysis is misleading particularly in Rural or semi-rural areas not previously reached by infection.

In view of American experience of this disease, it is impossible to feel complacent about the future. At the moment of writing Poliomyelitis in England and Wales is fortunately at a pretty low ebb—on the other hand a serious epidemic of this disease is raging in the State of North Carolina (U.S.A.) where "fifty one persons have died during the worst epidemic in the State's history" (quote "The Scotsman" dated 27th July, 1948).

Three main points in control cannot be over-emphasised:—

(1) Parents should consult a doctor whenever a child is sick or feverish, particularly during the summer and early autumn months.

(2) A high standard of hygiene should be practised, e.g., a child should be taught to hold a handkerchief to cover his mouth and nose when he coughs or sneezes.

(3) It is vitally important to wash one's hands before eating food and also after using the W.C.

Measles:—During November, 1947, an epidemic of this disease broke out at Penrith Council Infants' School which reached its peak in December and finally died out early in February, 1948.

All the Infants' Schools were affected and 52 per cent. of the cases were schoolchildren, 46 per cent. were in pre-school age children.

One male adult (23 years old) was notified.

While the earlier cases were all mild the disease tended to become more severe in the later stages and with respiratory complications commoner but fortunately there were no deaths from this cause.

There were 237 notified cases in the year 1947.

Whooping Cough:—This disease became epidemic during the month of February, 1947, and was endemic during the months of March to June, 1947.

70 per cent. of cases were in the pre-school age group of children and altogether 61 cases were notified during the year.

Experimental work with vaccines against this disease is at present under way in the City of Manchester among other places where the medical Research Council is operating, but the results of these tests are not yet available.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diseases	AGES											Totals	Admitted to Isolation Hosp	Deaths
	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45--	65-		
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	5	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	4	-
Bacillary Dysentery (Sonne)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	8	20	21	30	32	118	7	-	1	-	-	-	237	-
Whooping Cough	8	5	8	10	12	17	-	1	-	-	-	-	61	-
	.										Totals ..	323	11	1

CANCER

Twenty deaths were attributed to malignant disease giving a death rate of 2.05 per 1000 of population; in 1946 there were 22 deaths and a rate of 2.28 per 1000.

The details are as follows:

System:	Males	Females
Alimentary:		
Buccal	1	—
Colon	—	2
Pancreas ..	—	1
Rectum ..	2	1
Genito-Urinary		
Bladder ..	1	—
Prostate ..	2	—
Uterus	—	1
Breast	—	3
Lung	1	2
Skin		
Melanotic Sarcoma	—	2
Aplastic Anæmia ..	—	1
Totals	<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>

1 death occurred among persons between 32 and 50 years
6 deaths „ „ „ „ 51 and 60 years
5 „ „ „ „ 61 and 70 years
4 „ „ „ „ 71 and 75 years
4 „ „ „ „ 76 and over

Total number of deaths—20

65 per cent. of the deaths were over 60 years of age and $64\frac{1}{2}$ years was the average age at death.

TUBERCULOSIS CASES, 1947.

Ages		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
To	1 year	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1-5	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	5-15	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15-25	..	2	3	1	—	1	—	1
	25-35	..	1	1	—	—	2	—	—
	35-45	..	2	2	—	—	—	—	1
	45-55	..	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
	55-65	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	65 and upwards	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	7	7	2	3	1	4	—	2

NUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1947

Males		Females		Total
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
23	5	19	7	54

No action has been necessary in respect of Tuberculosis among persons employed in the milk trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the register at 31st December, 1947, is 54 which compares with 51 at the corresponding period in 1946.

Three of the nineteen new cases are ex-Servicemen and four were transferred from other areas.

CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory Tubercle	1	4	5
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	2	2
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males), Uterus (females)	1	1	2
Cancer of Breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	6	9	15
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	8	12	20
Heart Diseases	27	27	54
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	7	3	10
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Pneumonia	—	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	—	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	—	3
Diarrhoea (under two years)	—	1	1
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	1	1
Nephritis	3	1	4
Premature Birth	2	1	3
Congenital Malformation, birth injury or infantile diseases	1	3	4
Suicide	2	—	2
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—	2
Other violent causes	1	2	3
All other causes	4	8	12
	74	81	155

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1947
for the Urban District of Penrith in the County of Cumberland:

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	8	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	56	36	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	—	—	—
Total ..	76	44	6	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	F'nd	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	—	2	—
Total ..	7	7	—	5	—

PENRITH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
PENRITH,
July, 1948.

Dr. F. W. GAVIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

With the approval of Mr. Butler I submit for your consideration a report on the work carried out by this department during the year 1947.

Milk Supply:

Routine visits have been made to all the milk producing farms in the district and although there is little change the following improvements were carried out during the year:—

Minor alterations to a byre at Carleton Hill,

A new cooling house erected at Pategill Farm and the Producer licensed for the production of Accredited Milk.

Existing byre and farm buildings gutted and completely reconstructed into a modern cowshed in concrete and tubular steel and with a head feeding passage at Anchor Farm.

The three principal dairies in the town were also visited regularly and I find on the whole they are well conducted, the equipment is fairly modern, the buildings are of good construction and the methods are for the most part satisfactory. They all suffer in a greater or lesser degree from the same fault, namely lack of space, but I expect this to be remedied as other arrangements can be made. During the year only one complaint was received and this referred to a dirty bottle received by a customer of one of the dairies.

The number of cowkeepers, dairymen, etc., is as follows:

Number of Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	..	..	..	26
Number of above producing Graded Milk	..	..	..	7
Number of Retail Purveyors	..	..	..	7

Bacteriological Examination of Milk:

The following is the result of the milk samples taken during 1947, the standards being the same as described in the 1946 report:

	Samples taken	Satisfactory	Failed in 1 test	Failed in 2 tests
T.T. Producers ..	25	18	4	3
Accredited Producers	2	2	—	—
Ungraded Producers	6	5	1	—
Retailers	19	11	5	3

Compared with 1946 the record for samples from T.T. Producers is not so good but the record for samples from Retailers is very much improved.

Milk in Schools:

All the schools continue to be supplied with T.T. milk. Samples of school milk are included in the figures given above with the exception of three special samples taken during the outbreak of Poliomyelitis. It was not possible to test for the virus and although a general bacteriological examination was made the samples were older than the time prescribed in the Regulations and the results are excluded from the table given above.

Food Inspection:

Regular inspections are carried out at all premises where food is manufactured or sold and quite a number of improvements have been carried out. Although some of these were quite small, e.g., a slab for butter or bacon, a section of easy-clean metal shelving, etc., they are very definitely a step in the right direction. One considerable improvement was carried out at a Pork Butcher's premises where the manufacturing section was entirely reconstructed and modern plant installed.

Ice Cream:

The effect of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations, 1947, is now evident and I am pleased to report that there is a sincere desire on the part of the local manufacturers to comply with the Regulations. Not all the necessary plant has been installed but when this is done, and in certain cases new premises have been obtained, the manufacture of Ice Cream in Penrith will be carried out on sound hygienic lines.

Condemned Food:

During 1947 the following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption and was destroyed or otherwise disposed of, disposal for animal feeding being adopted in any suitable cases.

185 tins Milk.	10½ stones	Cod Fillets.
97 „ Meat	4 „	Haddock
176 „ Vegetables	6 „	Dabs
50 „ Fruit	5 „	Smoked Fillets
81 „ Fish	5 „	White Fillets
78 „ Jam.	5 „	Lemon Sole
17 „ Soup.	4 „	Plaice
1 „ Cheese.	14	Cod.
1 „ Syrup.	1 box	Salmon.
308 lbs. Bread.	1 „	Lobsters.
144 lbs. Flour	1 „	Herrings.
6 Sides Bacon.	47 lbs.	Prawns.
66 lbs. Bacon.	28 lbs.	Sugar.
4 Hams	88 lbs.	Sultanas.
190 dozen Eggs.	7½ stones	Butter Beans.
91½ lbs. Butter.	28 lbs.	Semolina.
1½ lbs. Margarine.	50 lbs.	Apricots.
101½ lbs. Cheese.	7 lbs.	Porridge Oats.
168 lbs. Peas.	18 jars	Jam.
52 pkts. Cornflakes.	11 pkts.	Breakfast Cereal.
168 Fishcakes.	3 boxes	Melons.
23 pkts. Table Jellies.	Length of	Ox Runner.
64 lbs. Manufacturing Chocolate.	29 lbs.	Sweets.
100 Oxo Cubes.	40	Miscellaneous Packets.

Housing:

This still continues to be the major problem facing Local Authorities and here I am in complete agreement with the President of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association who said: "The lack of suitable homes is responsible for more unhappiness and deterioration in family life than any other single thing." There are still far too many young couples living with in-laws and who, after years of this kind of life, are now prepared to take almost anything provided they can call it their own; too many living in overcrowded conditions where there is neither comfort nor privacy; and too many living in houses whose useful life is nearing an end or, worse still, ended years ago. The demand is far in excess of the supply and I am sure that all whose duties bring them in contact with this problem will agree that it is both heartbreaking and urgent. I am quite convinced that the provision of suitable homes for all would bring to an end much of the feeling of frustration and irritation besetting people to-day and that the bulk of the cases of "nerves" would disappear.

That this Authority is fully alive to the problem there is no doubt, and if willingness to provide homes for all was the only criterion, the need would long since have been met. It is being met in the development of Scaws Estate and is now a question of available labour and materials.

One other real problem in housing is the number of houses which under normal circumstances would have been condemned, but which owing to the acute shortage are still inhabited. Many of these houses are almost constantly in need of repair and it would almost require the wisdom of Solomon to judge what should be done to keep them in a reasonably habitable state. In my more limited capacity I do my best to be fair to both landlord and tenant.

Following the housing survey of last year an overcrowding survey was carried out and a total of 165 cases was recorded. It is not claimed that the list is complete or even that it is still up to date, but there is no doubt that it was a valuable help to the Housing Committee in the selection of tenants.

In addition to the inspection work on overcrowding, checking applications for Council houses, routine inspections under the Housing Acts, etc., the following defects in houses were dealt with informally under the Public Health Act:

Accumulation of rubbish	6
Animals improperly kept	2
Burst water pipe	1
Conversion of privy to water closet	1
Dampness in walls	18
Dangerous Walls	3
Defective Chimneys	1
„ doors	1
„ drainage	8
„ floors	6
„ firegrates	5
„ plaster	22
„ roofs	34
„ sinks	8
„ soil pipes	1
„ spouting	23
„ stairs	1
„ septic tank	1
„ walls	5
„ water closets	26
„ water supply	8
„ waste pipes	3
„ windows	6
Flooding	3
Instal wash-down water closet pan	17
Smoke nuisance	1
Verminous premises	4
Miscellaneous	2

Tents, Vans and Sheds:

With the closing down of the camping site at Stoney Beck and the number of campers at the Crones being restricted, the camping facilities in the area are inadequate. I understand that something is likely to be done so that holiday campers can be accommodated but the twice-yearly influx will still continue to present a problem.

Shops Act:

Informal action was taken in a few cases and as a result the following improvements or repairs were carried out:

Defective water closets repaired	3
Ventilation provided for water closet	1
Defective heater renewed	1
New sink fitted	1
Stove repaired	1

Disinfection and Disinfestation:

During the year 27 houses and 2 schools were disinfected, the number being made up as follows:

After removal of Infectious Disease (inc. T.B.)	15
After deaths from Infectious Diseases	5
By request	2
Presence of Vermin	5
Schools	2

Rodent Control:

During the year treatments were carried out at the Refuse Tip, in the sewers and at 7 other premises. In all cases, particularly at the Tip, the results were highly satisfactory.

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It is difficult to present the facts and problems of 1947 in a very interesting manner when more than half way into 1948, although in many ways the pattern is similar. There is still a need for new houses, a need for old worn-out houses to be pulled down, a need for aiming at ideal hygienic conditions where our food and drink is manufactured or sold, in fact there is, as always, the need to carry out our daily tasks to the best of our ability.

At the time of writing, Public Health has reached an important time in its history, as 1948 marks its centenary. It is only 100 years ago that the streets were little better than rubbish dumps and common sewers and that slums were so bad that the annual death rate from causes associated entirely with housing conditions was in the thousands. It was largely through the efforts of Edwin Chadwick, whose "General Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Classes" brought these appalling conditions into public prominence, that the first Public Health Act became law in 1848. The progress in environmental sanitation during the first century has been indeed amazing and it is difficult to believe that the conditions described in Chadwick's report existed such a comparatively short time ago.

The beginning of the second century is marked by what may well prove to be as great a history-making measure as the first Public Health Act, namely the National Health Service Act. It is impossible to predict what effect this legislation will have on each one of us, but if all who administer the Act will carry out their duties in a spirit of high idealism the benefits to the health of the nation may be far greater than they ever were in the century now ending.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. R. MILLER,

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

